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## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SAN JOSE DIVISION

*In re Google Play Consumer Antitrust* Litigation

CASE NO. 3:20-CV-05761 JD

5 Related Actions:

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Epic Games, Inc. v. Google, LLC; 3:20-CV-05671-JD

*In re Google Play Developer Antitrust* Litigation, 3:20-CV-5792-JD

PLAINTIFFS CARR, BENTLEY AND CARROLL'S MOTION TO STRIKE OR ALTERNATIVE MOTION FOR LEAVE TO REPSPOND TO COTCHETT, PITRE & MCCARTHY AND KAPLAN FOX & KILSHEIMER LLP'S MEMORANDUM IN FURTHER SUPPORT

Hearing

Date: December 15, 2020 Time: 11:00 a.m. (Pacific)<sup>1</sup>

**Location:** Via Zoom

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Korein/Bartlit Group requests that the Court either strike Kaplan/Cotchett's Memorandum in Further Support ("Supplemental Memorandum") or grant leave for a response. <sup>2</sup> The Supplemental Memorandum is an improper end-run around this Court's briefing rules, presenting new arguments and proposing a new steering committee of at least four firms. The Korein/Bartlit Group should have an opportunity to respond if the Court considers the Supplemental Memorandum.

The Korein/Bartlit Group filed its Motion for Appointment of Interim Lead Counsel ("Group's Motion for Appointment") on November 23, 2020. (Dkt. 81). The Court ordered "[r]esponses due by 12/7/2020." (Dkt. 81 Elec. Notice). December 7, 2020 came and went with no opposition from Kaplan/Cotchett. The Korein/Bartlit Group's response to Kaplan/Cotchett's own motion for appointment was due on December 9, 2020 and timely filed. (Dkt. 87 & 115). Having missed the deadline to oppose the Group's Motion for Appointment, Kaplan/Cotchett filed a 16 page

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Supplemental Memorandum incorrectly states this hearing is set for 10 a.m. Pacific time. The Court set this matter for hearing at 11 a.m. Pacific. (Dkt. 104).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Korein/Bartlit Group" collectively refers to the firms of Korein Tillery LLC, Bartlit Beck, LLP, Milberg Phillips Grossman LLP and Pritzker Levine, LLP. "Kaplan/Cotchett" collectively refers to the firms of Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer and Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy.

P a g e | 2 MOTION TO STRIKE OR ALTERNATIVE MOTION TO FILE RESPONSE

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"Memorandum in Further Support," with over 100 pages of exhibits, approximately one hour after the Korein/Bartlit Group timely opposed the Kaplan/Cotchett motion for appointment. (Dkt. 116).

Substantively, the Supplemental Brief offers three arguments, (1) that the Kaplan/Cotchett and Korein/Bartlit Group complaints are distinguishable (*id.* at p. 2-3); (2) that the Korein/Bartlit Group's early case activity is irrelevant (*id.* at p. 3-5); and (3) that a pre-appointed steering committee comprised of at least four firms supported by no fewer than 12 lawyers promotes efficiency<sup>3</sup> (*id.* at 5-11). The Court should either strike Kaplan/Cotchett's Supplemental Memorandum or grant the Korein/Bartlit Group leave to respond. A copy of the Group's proposed three page Response is attached as Exhibit 1.<sup>4</sup>

## **ARGUMENT**

Local Rule 7 and this Court's Standing Order for Civil Cases ("Standing Order") limit litigants to a 15 page opening brief, a 15 page response, and a 10 page reply. L.R. 7-2 & 7-3; Standing Order at ¶18. The Standing Order commands: "Reply papers should not raise new points that could have been addressed in the opening motion or brief." Standing Order at ¶15. Further briefing is generally not permitted without leave of court. L.R. 7-3(d); Standing Order ¶15.

Regardless of how Kaplan/Cotchett characterize their Supplemental Memorandum, it is procedurally improper. If the Supplemental Memorandum is a reply to the Korein/Bartlit Group's Opposition, it violates Paragraph 15 of the Standing Order by asserting arguments known to Kaplan/Cotchett when they originally filed for leadership, and thus "could have been addressed in the opening motion or brief." Standing Order at ¶15.5 If the Supplemental Memorandum is merely additional briefing, then it violates Local Rule 7-2(d) and Paragraph 15 of the Court's Standing Order, which prohibit such briefing without leave. Kaplan/Cotchett cannot unilaterally ignore the Court's briefing rules simply because they missed (through negligence or choice) the December 7, 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Notably, this proposed steering committee is already growing, with the law firm of Bottini & Bottini seeking appointment to its ranks just yesterday. (Dkt. 119).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Response is seven pages total, but only three of those are substantive argument.

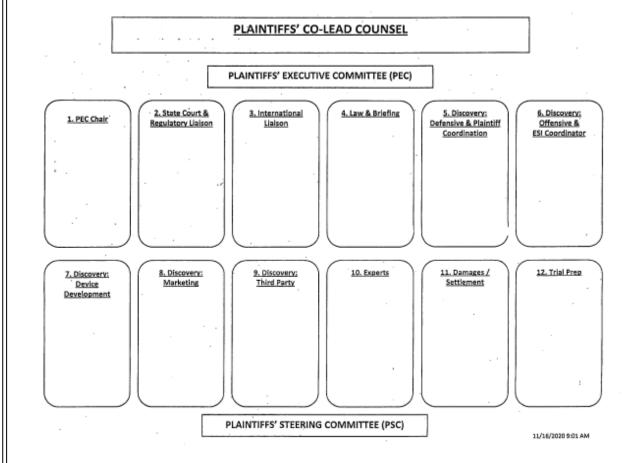
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Kaplan/Cotchett does not identify when the makeup of the steering committee was finalized, but arguments concerning the pleadings and the Korein/Bartlit Group's early case activities were known well before Kaplan/Cotchett filed their opening brief. In any event, Korein/Bartlit should be permitted to respond to the new arguments and information.

P a g e | 3 MOTION TO STRIKE OR ALTERNATIVE MOTION TO FILE RESPONSE

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opposition deadline. Lastly, the Supplemental Memorandum violates the 15 page opening brief limit by adding another 11 pages of briefing to Kaplan/Cotchett's original 15 page argument. *See* Standing Order ¶18. (Dkt. 87 & 116).

The Court could justifiably strike the Kaplan/Cotchett "Memorandum in Further Support" as improper. If, however, the Court intends to consider the filing, a brief response to the new arguments is warranted, particularly with respect to Kaplan/Cotchett's newly proposed steering committee. Notably absent from the Supplemental Memorandum is any discussion of exactly how the committee will function, but Kaplan/Cotchett provided the below diagram during leadership discussions.



Given the myriad of billing firms and redundant committees envisioned by this diagram, the Korein/Bartlit Group requests the opportunity to address how this bloated structure would affect efficient class leadership.

The Korein/Bartlit Group has no intention of reiterating arguments made in its Motion for Appointment or Opposition. Rather, it seeks leave to file a targeted, three page reply focused only on the Supplemental Memorandum's new arguments and information. The Group's substantive right to present a complete leadership argument should not fall victim to Kaplan/Cotchett's circumvention of the Court's briefing rules.

A Proposed Order is attached to this Motion as Exhibit 2.

WHEREFORE the Korein/Bartlit Group respectfully requests the Court strike Kaplan/Cotchett's Memorandum in Further Support or, in the alternative, grant the Korein/Bartlit Group leave to file its Response to Kaplan/Cotchett's Memorandum in Further Support and for any further relief that the Court deems just and appropriate.

Dated: December 11, 2020

P a g e | 5 MOTION TO STRIKE OR ALTERNATIVE MOTION TO FILE RESPONSE

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** The undersigned hereby certifies that on December 11, 2020, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served upon all counsel of record through the Court's electronic filing and notification system. /s/ Jamie L. Boyer